



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Attempt Murder Arrest Victim Struck by Car Following Argument at a Party**

**SANTA BARBARA, CA – November 26, 2012**

Avery Anthony Morris Jr., age 29, formerly of Montecito, was arrested for attempt murder stemming from an incident that occurred in September 2012, in the City of Santa Barbara. Morris struck the victim, a 27-year old Santa Barbara resident, with a car following an argument at a party.

On September 13, 2012, at 10:41 p.m., Santa Barbara Police and Fire personnel as well as AMR paramedics responded to a call of a vehicle versus pedestrian hit-and-run traffic collision on the 500 block of W. Gutierrez Street. Upon arrival the victim was located lying in the street suffering from multiple serious injuries, including a head wound, that required hospitalization. He was treated at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. The responding officers located numerous witnesses and determined that this incident was not an accident; Morris intentionally struck the victim with a car and then fled the scene.

Investigation indicates the following. Morris and the victim are acquaintances and prior to the incident had been attending a party on the 500 block of W. Gutierrez Street. Morris was asked to leave the party after offending the host. Morris became angry at being told to leave and started arguing with the host, which escalated to Morris threatening that he had a gun and punching another partygoer as he walked by. The victim attempted to keep the peace at the party by helping to escort Morris outside. Other partygoers, angry at Morris's behavior, started kicking Morris's vehicle which was parked on the street. The car, a black Audi S6, is registered to Morris's girlfriend. Morris went to his car and left the scene, repeatedly threatening that he had a gun and was going to kill people at the party. He also repeatedly stated that he was a Blood gang member. A few minutes passed and Morris returned to the scene, exiting his vehicle and approaching partygoers that were still outside. As he approached, Morris stated that he had a gun and held his hand to his waistband which prompted several partygoers to run for cover. After advancing on the crowd, however, Morris returned to his vehicle and drove away. Morris returned to the scene a second time a moment later, apparently after having driven around the block. Morris sped down the street and struck the victim who was standing on the roadway. Witnesses stated that Morris tracked the victim with his car and struck the victim as the victim attempted to dodge the collision.

From the interviews at the scene the investigating officers knew that the suspect's first name was "Avery" and that he had been driving a black Audi. An SBPD records check indicated that in February 2012, a subject named Avery had been cited for being an unlicensed driver while driving a black Audi S6; that person was Morris. With this lead SBPD Crimes Against Persons detectives were able to identify Morris as the suspect in this case. Morris was found to be on felony probation for resisting an officer by threat or violence with his address of record being on the 1400 block of Schoolhouse Road in Montecito. When attempts were made to contact Morris at this location it was discovered that he had moved without notifying the Santa Barbara County Probation Department of his whereabouts. On November 6, 2012, SBPD detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Morris for the crime of attempt murder with a bail amount of \$1,000,000.00. They developed information that Morris was in Pasadena and on November 13, 2012, Morris was arrested at a residence there by officers from the Pasadena Police Department and booked into the Los Angeles County Twin Towers Jail.

On November 19, 2012, Morris was transported to the Santa Barbara County Jail where he was booked on the aforementioned warrant for attempt murder. Additionally, over the course of this investigation detectives learned of additional instances where Morris has claimed membership in the Los Angeles area Blood gang. Consequently, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office has been asked to consider filing an additional felony charge against Morris for active participation in a criminal street gang.



Morris Jr., Avery Anthony

Photo provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office.

**Sergeant Riley L. Harwood, Community & Media Relations / PIO**

**Phone: (805) 897-2320**

**Fax: (805) 897-2420**

**Email: [rlharwood@sbpd.com](mailto:rlharwood@sbpd.com)**



SBPD alerts and community information online now at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)

###